

For immediate release  
February 6, 2007

## **FEDERAL OFFICIAL TO DISCUSS BORDER WATER ISSUES AT FEBRUARY 20 PUBLIC MEETING IN IMPERIAL COUNTY**

United States Commissioner Carlos Marin of the International Boundary and Water Commission will be a featured speaker at the February 20 meeting of the Colorado River Citizens' Forum (CRCF).

The CRCF was established by the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) in 2003 to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related issues in the area. The meeting, which is open to the public, is scheduled for 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. (PST) at Imperial Valley College, Room #2131, 380 E. Aten Road, Imperial, California.

Marin, who was appointed to his post by President George W. Bush in December 2006, will give his perspective on some of the challenges facing the Commission, including Colorado River drought, flood control, water quality, and boundary demarcation.

The Citizens' Forum will also hear an update on the Mexicali II Sanitation Project from Jose Aguilar, Project Department Chief of the State Public Services Commission of Mexicali (CESPM). A major component of the project, the new wastewater treatment plant at Las Arenitas, has been substantially completed and has begun treating sewage.

In another presentation, Miguel Figueroa, Executive Director of the Calexico New River Committee, will give an update about the Committee's work, including community outreach, legal strategy, and funding. The Calexico New River Committee is working to address pollution in the New River, which flows north from Mexico into Calexico, California.

There will also be a status report on the lining of the All American Canal from Paul Peschel,

Assistant Water Manager, Engineering Services, with the Imperial Irrigation District. The presentation will provide a general overview of the All American Canal design, including the lined channel and parallel reservoir. Peschel will discuss the project's current status and anticipated construction completion based on current expected construction time periods. He will also give an update with regard to lawsuits related to the canal lining project and their potential impacts on the project schedule.

The Colorado River Citizens' Forum Board is comprised of eight residents of Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California who represent diverse interests in the region. The board conducts quarterly public meetings in the area.

A complete meeting agenda is attached. Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting can contact the USIBWC's Yuma Project Office at 928-782-1598 or [annamorales@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:annamorales@ibwc.state.gov).

For more information:

Yuma Project Office  
928-782-1598  
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**COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM**  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2007**  
**4:00 - 6:00 P.M. PST**  
**Imperial Valley College, Room #2131**  
**380 E. Aten Road**  
**Imperial, CA 92251**

**Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions - Brian McNeece, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Projects and Challenges of the International Boundary and Water Commission in the Colorado River Region - Carlos Marin, Commissioner, USIBWC
- Mexicali Sanitation Project - Jose Aguilar, Project Development Chief, State Public

Services Commission of Mexicali (CESPM)

- Calexico New River Committee Update - Miguel Figueroa, Executive Director, Calexico New River Committee
- All American Canal Lining Project - Paul Peschel, Assistant Water Manager, Engineering Services, Imperial Irrigation District
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion
  - Expiration of Board Terms
  - Application Information
- Suggested Future Agenda Items

**Directions:** From Yuma, AZ, take I-8 West to Imperial, CA. Take CA-111N exit #118B toward Indio. Drive approximately four miles. Take a left on Aten Road, then an immediate right onto Frontage Road to North Parking Lot C.

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information, call 928-782-1598, [annamorales@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:annamorales@ibwc.state.gov).